



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Chief Administrative Officer

At its meeting held June 8, 2004, the Board took the following action:

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The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisors Yaroslavsky and Molina:

“On any given night in Los Angeles County, about 80,000 people are homeless. There is currently an effort to create a plan to end homelessness in 10 years called ‘Bring Los Angeles Home, the Partnership to End Homelessness’ (Bring LA Home). Bring LA Home includes leaders and representatives from the City of Los Angeles, County, business, nonprofit, and faith-based communities.

“As part of the Bring LA Home planning process, focus groups were conducted on a variety of homeless issues, including mental health, substance abuse, and health. Each focus group created a list of recommendations for ending homelessness. Several of the focus group recommendations addressed the County’s General Relief (GR) program, as there are approximately 15,000 GR recipients who are homeless. One such recommendation is to leverage existing GR funds to expand the emergency shelter program for homeless GR participants and all homeless individuals.

“Currently, the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) spends nearly \$4 million annually in Net County Cost funds for emergency shelter to homeless adults applying for GR. DPSS purchases emergency shelter beds, but competes with other agencies, like Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), for limited resources. LAHSA’s year-round shelters also provide case management services, which can help end the cycle of homelessness. According to LAHSA’s 2002 Continuum of Care gap analysis, there is a shortfall of 10,000 emergency shelter beds in the County.

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“In order to maximize the homeless services delivery system for GR participants and all homeless individuals, the County should examine the existing homeless funding mechanisms and service delivery plans to determine how they can be more comprehensive and effective and to explore methods of blending funds and resources for this purpose.”

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Yaroslavsky, seconded by Supervisor Molina, unanimously carried, the Board took the following actions to determine how existing County funds could be blended and leveraged to provide a more effective, comprehensive homeless delivery system:

1. Instructed the Chief Administrative Officer to facilitate a workgroup consisting of representatives from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, Departments of Health Services, Mental Health; Public Social Services, Community and Senior Services, and the Community Development Commission, as well as community advocates such as the Los Angeles Coalition to End Hunger and Homelessness, Public Counsel and Shelter Partnership; and
2. Prepare and submit a report to the Board within 90 days addressing the following issues:
 - The feasibility of transferring funds utilized for General Relief homeless shelters to Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to support a year-round shelter program with case management services;
 - A plan for phasing-in the transfer of such funds and how LAHSA would locate sites and providers for emergency shelters; and
 - How to ensure that the County meets its obligation to General Relief participants for shelter services.

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Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor

County Counsel

Director of Community and Senior Services

Director of Health Services

Director of Mental Health

Director of Public Social Services

Executive Director of the Community Development Commission